

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/667,946
Reply to Office Action mailed December 10, 2004

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Claims 1 and 3 are hereby amended.

The amendment of claim 1, reciting "the current detecting circuit performs a straight current limit operation having a predetermined gradient while an output current is from a current limit operation starting current value to an output current maximum value, when the output current is beyond the current limit operation starting current value", is supported, for example, by Figure 4 and page 14, line 17 to page 15, line 5. Claim 3 is rewritten in independent form.

The drawings were objected to because Figure 5 was not labeled as prior art. Figure 5 is amended to reflect the suggestion of the Examiner. A replacement sheet is provided. Favorable reconsideration of the drawings is requested.

The abstract was objected to for improper content relating to purported merits. The abstract is amended to reflect the suggestion of the Examiner. Favorable reconsideration of the abstract is requested.

The title was objected to for not being descriptive. The title is amended to reflect the suggestion of the Examiner. Favorable reconsideration of the title is requested.

Claims 1 and 2 were rejected as being anticipated by Takimoto (US 6,194,875). Applicants traverse this rejection. Claim 1 requires that "the current detecting circuit performs a straight current limit operation having a predetermined gradient while an output current is from a current limit operation starting current value to an output current maximum value, when the output current is beyond the current limit operation starting current value". Takimoto does not suggest a fixed gain amplifier for current detection providing a predetermined gradient between a lower and upper current value. The voltage output versus current output taught by Takimoto can

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be seen on Figure 2 (Vout2 versus I2). The sloping characteristic disclosed by the current invention allows for a continuously stable voltage output. Favorable reconsideration of claims 1 and 2 is requested.

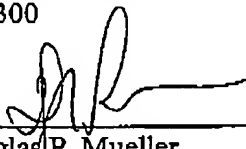
In view of the above, favorable reconsideration in the form of a notice of allowance is requested. Any questions regarding this communication can be directed to the undersigned attorney, Douglas P. Mueller, Reg. No. 30,300, at (612)371-5237.



Respectfully submitted,

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DPM:mfe